

Regardless of all other factors, a new national park must meet criteria for **national significance, suitability, and feasibility.**

## Suitability

To be considered suitable for inclusion in the National Park System, an area must represent a natural or cultural theme or type of recreational resource that is not already adequately represented in the National Park System or is not comparably represented and protected for public enjoyment by another land managing entity

Suitability is determined on a case-by-case basis by comparing the proposed area to other units of the National Park System for similarities or differences in:

- Character
- Quality
- Quantity
- Combination of resources
- Opportunities for public enjoyment

## Feasibility

To be considered feasible, a proposed area's natural systems and or historic settings must be of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure long-term protection of the resources and to accommodate public use. Areas must have potential for efficient administration at reasonable cost.

Important feasibility factors include:

- Land ownership
- acquisition costs
- access
- threats to the resource
- Staff or development requirements

**Alternatives** to National Park Service management might more adequately protect resources even if they are significant, suitable, and feasible additions to the System.

## Management Options

Studies of potential new park units evaluate management alternatives that may include:

- Continued management of the area by State or local governments, Indian tribes, the private sector, or other federal agencies.
- Management by others as a national historic landmark, a national wild and scenic river, a national trail, a biosphere reserve, a state or local park, or some other specially designated and protected area.
- Cooperative management between the National Park Service and other entities
- Alternatives involving other federal agencies including designation of federal lands as wilderness, areas of critical environmental concern, national conservation areas, national recreation areas, marine or estuarine sanctuaries, and national wildlife refuges.

